

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 11 and ending on line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

24 --A PAMIA series produced by SYSMEX Corporation provides apparatuses for counting immunoassay. This series is suitable because a single apparatus can perform a set of operations from mixing a sample with a buffer to calculating the degree of agglutination automatically.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 19 and ending on line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

25 --In this Example, RANREAM HBsAg (produced by SYSMEX Corporation) was used for preparing a sample which was subjected to the latex agglutination and then hemolyzed. PAMIA-30 (produced by Sysmex Corporation) was used for determination.--

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended) A whole blood immunoassay comprising the steps of:

mixing a whole blood sample with sensitized insoluble carrier particles to cause an immune agglutination;

26 diluting the resulting agglutination mixture with an aqueous solution containing an erythrocyte lysing agent to lyse erythrocytes; and

*File copy*  
determining a degree of agglutination of the resulting whole blood sample.

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Claim 4 (Amended) A whole blood immunoassay according to Claim 1, wherein the degree of agglutination of the assay sample is conducted by flow cytometry.

Claim 5 (Amended) A whole blood immunoassay according to Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

introducing the resulting whole blood sample including unagglutinated particles and agglutinated particles to a flow cell, irradiating particles passing through the flow cell with laser light, and detecting scattered light generated thereby;

*Q1*  
setting a threshold value for distinguishing unagglutinated particles from agglutinated particles with regard to intensity of the scattered light; and

distinguishing and counting the unagglutinated particles and the agglutinated particles in reference to the threshold value; and

calculating the degree of agglutination from the number of unagglutinated particles and the number of agglutinated particles.

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